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### HALFWAY THROUGH 2016, KILLINGS ARE UP IN MORE THAN 24 BIG U.S. CITIES

By Mark Berman | THE WASHINGTON POST

ate last month, a 25-year-old man named Matheno El was shot and killed in Washington, D.C. The week before, authorities in New Jersey said a 45-year-old man named Ronald Gwaltney was fatally shot. Two days earlier, police in Nashville said they arrested a 61-year-old man and accused him of killing Laura L. Jones, his longtime girlfriend, inside his home.

These deaths all occurred in places that have seen homicides increase in the first half of 2016. More than two dozen police agencies across the country say killings in their cities were up at the midyear point, in some cases outpacing their 2015 homicide counts by dozens of deaths, according to statistics released Monday.

The country's violent crime rates are still far below what they were just a couple of decades ago, yet they have still caused worry in cities across the country. Law enforcement officials, criminologists and other experts have been unable to explain precisely why homicides have continued to increase in some places.

"It's something that we ought to be concerned about," said Darrel Stephens, executive director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the group of law enforcement leaders that collected and released the data. "The increases, even though the numbers aren't big in most cities, there's still an increase over what we've seen in years past, and there are lots of cities ... seeing some kind of increase in violent crime."

Experts urged caution in reviewing the num-

bers, saying that they do not represent a trend.

Richard Berk, a professor of statistics and criminology at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, noted that of the 47 cities releasing full figures for the first half of 2016, nearly as many reported decreases (21) as increases (26).

The numbers released Monday cover only some parts of the country, coming from a little more than four dozen police agencies, and they inevitably represent a snapshot in time, which is unavoidable but means that a matter of days or weeks dictate whether a city reports an increase or a decrease in homicides.

Berk also said that because crime occurs in specific areas, it does not make sense to look at citywide figures. "... What's going on in Chicago on the South Side is different than what's going on in the North and West," Berk said. "To talk about a city as a unit doesn't make any criminological sense."

The biggest overall increase was seen in Chicago. There were 316 killings in the first half of this year, up from 211 last year, putting Chicago on pace to potentially top 600 homi-

cides in a year for the first time since 2003.

Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said the department was committed to working with residents to help stem the violence, attributing much of the bloodshed to gang members using illegally acquired firearms.

Chicago police have said that they are working to fight the number of illegal guns on the city's streets, taking possession of nearly 5,000 guns and arresting more than 1,530 people for gun-related offenses, officials said. The police department has also targeted gang members with raids and beefing up community policing.

Police departments across the country reported more than 300 additional homicides combined through this year over last year. Some cities have shown relatively small increases, but just a handful of cities accounted for much of the overall increase, including Chicago, which alone had a third of the overall uptick in homicides. Chicago, Orlando and Las Vegas this year account for two-thirds of the total homicide increase seen in the new figures.

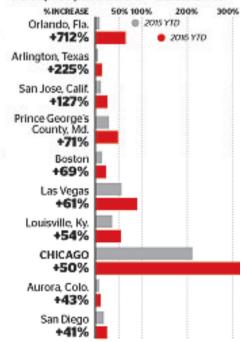
Police chiefs in different cities have offered varying explanations for the violence, Stephens said. Some mention gangs as the source of the increases. Many others mention violence related to drugs, and "everybody eventually gets to guns" when speaking about sources of the violence, he said.

Still, Stephens said that even with the numbers trailing behind decades-long trends, the homicide figures should be a reason for worry.

"Even if we had decreases in every one of our cities, you still have too many people killed in America by homicide, more than any other

#### CITIES WHERE HOMICIDES HAVE INCREASED THIS YEAR

Police departments in 26 large U.S. cities have reported an increase in homicides through the end of June. The list of the 10 cities with the biggest increase is led by Orlando, where 49 people were killed in a nightclub shooting in June. Even without that incident, homicides were up 100 percent there. — washington post

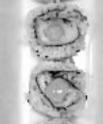


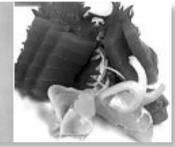
SOURCE: MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

industrialized nation in the world, and mostly because of gunfire, and mostly in high poverty areas of our communities with a significant impact on African-American populations," he said. "Yes, we ought to be concerned about it."









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# If you lose stuff at Lolla, check in with Crowdfind

Story courtesy of Chicago Tribune's

Blue Sky Innovation,

featuring news.

analysis and events

related to innovation,

entrepreneurship

and the next Big Idea.

By Ally Marotti | BLUE SKY INNOVATION Losing an item at Lollapalooza used to mean

repeated trips to the lost and found. Now festivalgoers can scroll through photos of lost items on an Instagram-like feed.

C3 Presents, the Austin-based company that produces the famed music festival, is working with Chicago startup Crowdfind to create the virtual lost and found.

Event staff can upload photos of found items and log information about lost ones on a mobile app. When an item is lost, the attendee visits the info tent to report it.

C3 tested Crowdfind at the NFL Draft Town event in April before bringing them on for Lolla, which is Thursday

through Sunday in Grant Park. Other Crowdfind festival clients include Bonnaroo, Coachella and Mamby on the Beach.

A tab on Lolla's website will redirect attendees to Crowdfind's platform, so they can check the photo feed to see if their item has been found and claim it. The platform notifies them when their item is found.

"You come to lost and found once. If we can't return your item right away ... you're only going to come back when your item gets updated, and then we're going to let you know,"

said Benji Friedl, Crowdfind's director of client engagement, who will be on-site at Lolla.

The sheer volume of people that come through Lollapalooza's gates makes returning lost items a huge operation, said Farid Mosher, crowd services and community outreach manager for C3 presents.

Last year, the three-day festival drew about 100,000 attendees each day to Grant Park, and it's expanding to four days this year for its 25th anniversary.

Staff formerly used Excel to log lost-andfound items, which were grouped in storage bins, Mosher said. Festivalgoers had to come to info tents if they lost something, file a claim

and fill out a form indicating where they were when they lost it. Then staff would communicate with other info tents throughout Grant Park and try to locate the lost item.

Mosher didn't know how successful that system was, because they didn't have the ability to track return rates.

"It's a process, and it's a lengthy one," he said. "It works for a smaller event ... but when we started exploring the idea of Crowdfind, it looked like a solution as far as it's a way to streamline all the different elements that are involved in the lost-and-found process."

When Lolla ended, C3 kept unclaimed items in its ambassador headquarters for two

> days before shipping them all back to its warehouse in Austin. Crowdfind will take over postfestival operations and keep the items in Chicago.

Crowdfind launched in 2013 mostly as a consumer app and pivoted in 2014 to serve businesses. Later that year, Crowdfind began testing its enterprise program at Navy Pier, and it's still being used as the tourist attraction's lost and found.

The startup was born at Chicago-based L Street Collaborative, a company that launches startups as projects, pulling resources from different

teams. It also has a consulting arm and makes acquisitions and investments.

L Street still owns the majority of Crowdfind and manages it, L Street founder and CEO Jay Sebben said. It is getting most of its funding from L Street and may raise its own round of funding later this year. Sebben would not comment on revenue.

Sebben said he loves seeing eventgoers reunited with items they were sure they'd never see again.

"That's where the festival really makes some winning fans," he said. "They're like, 'Yeah, I did get my kid's stuffed animal back,' or 'Yeah, I did get my one flip-flop back.' '



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It's been a productive month for the Cubs' front office, especially when it comes to pitching. After swooping up a nice crop of talent from the 2016 draft, the organization got left-hander Mike Montgomery from Seattle.

Then came the big

one

On Monday, the Cubs traded for closer Aroldis Chapman.

Some experts say he is a perfect fit for the Cubs. Maybe a franchise-changing acquisition, the thing that finally gets them another World Series title. After all, Chapman has a stellar fastball, a nice ERA and 166 career sayes. But he also comes with baggage.

Earlier this season, under the domestic violence policy MLB enacted in August, Chapman was suspended for the first 30 games of the season after an incident involving his girlfriend. An incident that, according to police, involved gunshots.

This isn't the first time in recent years that a Chicago sports team has signed or kept on the roster a player with a questionable past.

In March 2015, the Bears signed Ray McDonald, who had been released by San Francisco just months earlier after he was named a suspect in a sexual assault investigation. Two months after the Bears signed the defensive end, he was arrested on a domestic violence charge. The Bears released him that same day:

Some say the Bears should've known better. Barely a decade earlier, the club had similar troubles with Tank Johnson, a lineman given a second chance after an array of weapons-related arrests. The defensive star was waived in June 2007, just days after a DUI arrest.

Like it or not, for a lot of die-hard fans rooting for one's team does not happen in a vacuum. Often when our hometown favorites sign a player with a past that involves brutality, it tests our faith in sports and the people who run our teams.

In the incident involving Chapman and his girlfriend, no arrests were made and no charges brought forth. Some would argue that Chapman did serve his suspension, and he lost a reported \$1.86 million in salary. Plus, he said in a statement that he was sorry and \*learned from this matter." So why can't some of us fans move on, just let it go?

I have never been a victim of domestic violence. But as a husband, a father and someone who has spent years writing about women in sports (as athletes), I'm still not exactly cool with the Chapman trade.

"So, great, the Cubs have a shiny new arm. Maybe Chapman won't cause any more problems, and won't abuse anyone," I thought. Still, I knew what I felt, and it troubled me. But I couldn't put it to words. Reaching out to my friend and fellow sportswriter Julie DiCaro helped untie the emotional knots in my sports soul a bit.

DiCaro, who wrote for years about the Cubs and other sports for RedEye, now writes for Sports Illustrated and works for 670 The Score.

She points out that there are problems that arise every time a team signs a player with a checkered past, particularly one that involves domestic violence or sexual abuse.

"[There are] a number of fans who just don't care and are very comfortable admitting they care more about winning than they do about violence against women," she said. "They're all over Twitter."

Worse yet, when women who write about sports call attention to such issues, they are often harassed and taunted. This was the genesis of this April's viral #MoreThanMean

video featuring DiCaro and ESPN Chicago's Sarah Spain.

Another problem, DiCaro pointed out, comes from teams themselves. It seems at least on the surface that sports franchises don't look far beyond stats.

"We continue to see front offices who seem to take on the vetting of players who have been accused of being violent towards women without any guidance from anyone with an expertise in domestic violence or sexual assault," DiCaro said. "That's very troubling."

The truth is there are no blanket, easy answers to remedy uneasy feelings about the Cubs signing a player with unspeakable talent and questionable character. Certainly I think that people who have done bad things can change. But unfortunately strikeouts, saves and wins alone don't solve it. Nor does coaxing, or explaining that "he's served his time." Not for some of us who take violence very seriously.

For now, perhaps all that some of us who love the Cubs can do is focus on what has been a mostly magical season, and hope it continues. But I'll continue to shudder every time a team of mine picks up a player with an unsavory past. Many of us fans will.

ANDY FRYE IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. @MYSPORTSCOMPLEX



THE MOUTHWATCH [The 1976 throwback uniforms] are uncomfortable and unorthodox. I didn't want to go out there and not be at the top of my game in every aspect that I need to be in. Not only that, but I didn't want anything to alter my mechanics. ... There's a lot of different things that went into it. Looking bad had absolutely zero to do with it. Nothina."

-White Sox pitcher Chris Sale, on why he cut up team uniforms Saturday, an act that led to a suspension.

#### Hands off J.T.!

A California man was arrested for disorderly conduct after Justin Timberlake said he got too physical with him last weekend during the American Century Celebrity Golf Championship at Lake Tahoe, sheriff's officials said Tuesday. Keith Weglin, 29, of Sacramento was booked into the county jail for the misdemeanor Saturday, posted bail and was released late that night. TMZ first reported on a video showing someone's hand touching Timberlake on the back of his neck as the singer walked through the gallery. Timberlake could be heard saying, "Bro, why would you do that?"



#### **THE DIGITS** 27 percent

At least 105 athletes from the 387-strong Russian Olympic team that was announced last week (27 percent) have been barred from the Rio Games in connection with the country's doping scandal. International federations in canoeing, sailing and modern pentathlon ruled out eight on Tuesday, including an Olympic gold medalist. Rowing added 19 more athletes to three who had previously been announced.

#### 39 percent

With athletes beginning to pour into Rio de Janeiro for the Olympics, officials admitted Monday that only 12 of 31 buildings (39 percent) in the Olympic Village in which competitors will be housed have passed safety inspections.







By Rianne Coale | REDEYE

developer generally is one of simplicity. Make a game. Sell it. Recoup the expenses. Start a new game. Repeat.

For those whose passion lies in independent game developing, it's not about hitting it big or making tons of money. It's about doing what you love and making just enough to live comfortably and fund your next project.

That's the kind of life a group of Chicagoans have been living while creating Tumbleseed, an indie game being featured at the Bit Bash 2016 festival on Aug. 13.

Rob Lach, event curator for Bit Bash, said an indie game is one developed by an individual or small team without significant financial support from a publisher.

"The significance of that is beyond creators having to bootstrap production; it's more about the freedom of expression and direction an artist working on a game gets by not being bound by purely financial motivations," he said.

Tumbleseed co-creator Greg Wohlwend, a

"The goal is just to make the best game you can with the resources and sort of outlets available today. Then you can self-publish and self-market.

> Tumbleseed co-creater Greg Wohlwend, a 32-year-old Logan Square resident

32-year-old Logan Square resident, produces the graphic design artwork for the game. He's worked on the game for the past few years with Benedict Fritz, a 27-year-old programmer from Avondale, and a team of three others.

"The goal is just to make the best game you can with the resources and sort of outlets available today," Wohlwend said. "Then you can self-publish and self-market.

"That empowers individuals to be able to make a living on their own terms. Oftentimes it's cited as like the business model of indie games, which is not exactly one of growth and maximizing profit, but it is one of trying to maximize creativity."

After being inspired by an old arcade cabinet found at Logan Arcade called Ice Cold Beer, Fritz decided to create a prototype digital version, which sparked the interest of Wohlwend, and together they decided to work on developing Tumbleseed, with Wohlwend doing the art and Fritz the programming.

The premise of Tumbleseed is to use a vine to balance a seed while ascending a mountain.

"So the basic idea is that you're moving upwards, and we're kind of randomly generating this mountain," Fritz said. "There are worms that have taken over this mountain and you're kind of

#### PLAY THESE

Some of the indie games developers are looking forward to playing at Bit Bash 2016:

#### Sausage Sports Club

by Chris Wade

It features colorful
animals in hats
running around a
courtyard kicking a
ball. The animation
and colors remind me
of Mario Kart.

#### **Soft Body**

by Zeke Virant
It's described as a
"meditative action
game," but it just looks
like a two feathers
snaking through
geometric shapes and
stuff. Not sure where
the action comes in.

#### **Kissy Ghost**

by students of Columbia College Chicago

It involves a hearteyed pink ghost and a Gandalf-looking guy who I can only assume she's trying to kiss. It's got the same pixelation as an oldschool Super Mario Bros. game.

## Real Winners: Victoryball

by Pizza Curse Studios
You're basically
a soccer-playing
robot, and there are
large tennis balls
that roll around on
a field. Then these
screens pop up
and offer words of
encouragement and
dissuasion.

#### We Are Chicago

by Culture Shock Games

This one has the realistic look of a Sims game (only better) and a label similar to the Grand Theft Auto emblem, and it uses real stories for its narrative-driven adventures. –R.c.

"Overall, it's been explosive. The number of games keeps ticking up despite our best efforts to clamp it down because we're at our logistical limits, and the range of what we're showcasing keeps expanding to include different types of work."

-Rob Lach, event curator for Bit Bash

dodging holes, dodging enemies and moving through these four different biomes. You move through a forest, then you go through a jungle, then a desert, then a snowy area and then you hopefully get to the top of the mountain."

Alhough it's taken them a couple of years to develop Tumbleseed, it's been completely self-funded by the team's members. A lot of them do contract work on the side to bring in extra cash while also keeping their cost of living low enough to ensure financial breathing room for their projects.

"I feel like it's much more like being in a band than it is like a business with hierarchy, funding and things like that," Wohlwend said. "It's much more just, how long can you work on this thing? And how much can you put into it? And then hopefully at the end, we have a thing that we can release to the public and possibly it can fund the next thing we do."

Chicago is the best place to make indie games, Wohlwend believes.

"We're No. 1," he said, laughing. "We're the best tech city in the world."

Fritz said Portland, San Francisco and Austin also are popular destinations for independent game developers.

"It's basically anywhere that there are hubs of people interested in doing artful things," he said. "That's where a lot of games are being made."

Indie games are often seen as works of art, and artists are exploring how to use the medium to express themselves in new and exciting ways, Lach said.

David Laskey, a 24-year-old North Center resident, is one of the founders of Bit Bash and a programmer on the Tumbleseed team. Not only can he code, but he's also able to list "DJ" under his artistic talents. Both he and Fritz have DJed major Bit Bash events.

"For our DJ sets we've made interactive visualizers that bridge the space







between live music and physical video games," Laskey said. "So like the audience can participate in the DJ set while we're doing a live music performance."

The fact that Wohlwend, Fritz and Laskey are all in their mid-20s to early 30s is telling of the age range of many of Chicago's indie game developers.

"Indie games just didn't exist really before 2007 or 2008," Fritz said. "So like for a lot of older developers, it wasn't an option when they were mid-20s or early 30s because there wasn't the market-place that there is now. There wasn't just an app store where you could throw something up and sell it, and so I think

that's one of the main reasons why most of the indie developers are on the younger end of the spectrum."

More than 40 games curated by local Chicago developers will be show-cased at Bit Bash, including virtual reality experiences, digital-but-not-video games and more.

"We exhibit each game in a way that emphasizes how it should be experienced," Lach said.

The event has grown considerably since its inception in 2014, when there were only about 850 attendees, according to Lach. Last year's turnout boasted 1,400, and this year's crowd is expected to be even bigger.

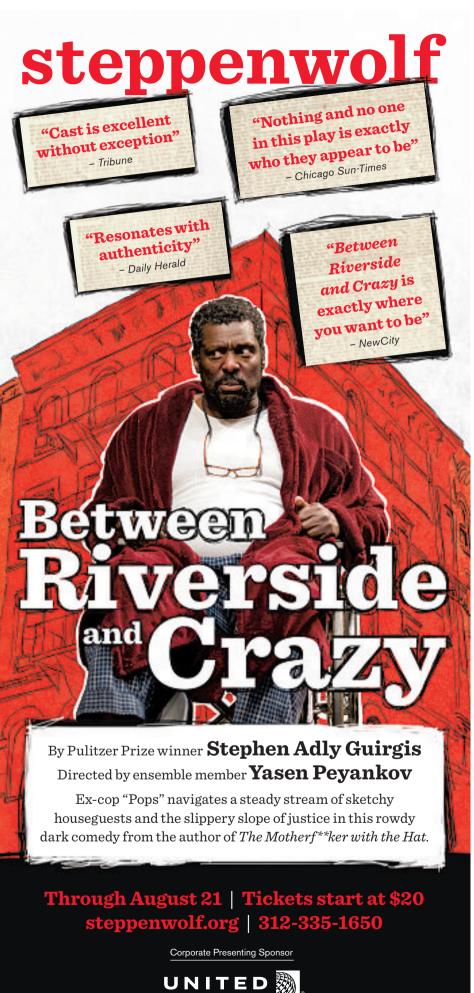
"Overall, it's been explosive," Lach said. "The number of games keeps ticking up despite our best efforts to clamp it down because we're at our logistical limits, and the range of what we're showcasing keeps expanding to include different types of work."

Eventgoers can look forward to games conducive to both social and personal environments. Meaning some games may be projected onto the walls, while others might be best experienced with headphones and a computer monitor.

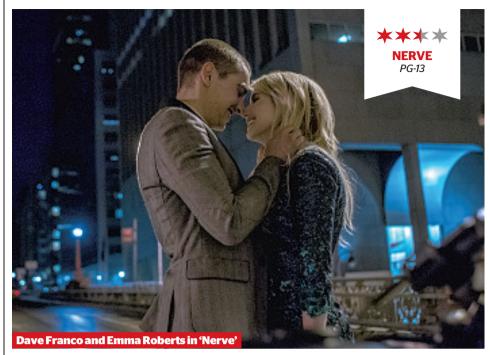
"In putting on Bit Bash we're giving people a chance to see so much thoughtful and engaging art that speaks across lines of age, gender, race, ability, and wealth, concentrating a little bit of what's best about this city for one day in one place," Lach said.

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#### movies



# Please don't preach



Lauren Chval

Silly teenagers, always getting themselves in trouble, only concerned with what's occurring on their screens. Would any of them actually hand over all their personal information to join Nerve, a 24-hour game where players accept increasingly difficult dares for

money? As players film themselves making out with strangers or dangling from construction cranes, the goal is to get the most 'watchers" and be the last person standing (lose by bailing or failing) at the end of the game, flush with cash and "Insta famous." Does that sound like something young people really would want to do?

To employ a word no teens use anymore: Duh.

#### **What happens?**

Emma Roberts (a 25-year-old who is perpetually 18) stars as Vee, your classic wallflower afraid to take risks. She's goaded into playing Nerve by her wild friend Sydney (Emily Meade) and almost immediately gets dared to team up with Ian (Dave Franco). They make a good combination until, of course, the game gets away from Vee and things spiral.

#### What's good?

"Nerve" is skillfully directed by Henry Joost and Ariel Schulman, the team that brought

vou "Catfish" and "Paranormal Activity" parts 3 and 4. The whole thing is slick, stylized and electric, employing point-of-view shots and phone footage to make you feel voyeuristically complicit. Pulsing soundtrack choices like Halsey's "Hurricane" add crucial doses of Millennial realism.

The best thing about the film is its concept, which slides 2016 ideals under a microscope. Online anonymity feeds mob mentality, and social media exhibitionism leads to a lust for fame. Like "The Hunger Games," "Nerve" serves as a parable for the aggressive online culture that shapes our lives.

#### What's bad?

Unfortunately, "Nerve" doesn't have the restraint to be subtle, and its interesting premise dissolves into laughably obvious metaphors. "Take off your mask! What's your name?" Vee shouts at watchers who are anonymous behind both their screen names and the bandanas that cover their faces.

For a while, "Nerve" is self-aware about its silliness, but then it starts to take everything very seriously and the wheels come off. When Vee complains that she was tired of being Sydney's sidekick, Ian says, "You don't seem like anyone's sidekick." Except that she just got off the back of your motorcycle, bro.

#### **Final verdict**

"Nerve" is quick and suspenseful throughout, never lagging for even a second. But a moral gray area turns into a sermon, and the movie doesn't give you enough to think about to keep you from pulling out your phone afterward.



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# streaming soon

\* = REDEYE RECOMMENDED WATCHING

For a full list of what's being added to and what's leaving Netflix in August, visit redeyechicago.com/netflix

#### AUG.1

The American Side (2016)An Inconvenient Truth (2006) APEX: The Story of the Hypercar (2016) Beethoven's Christmas Adventure (2011) Big Daddy (1999) Black Widow (1987) Critical Condition (1987)Deadfall (2012) **Destination: Team** USA (2016) \*Funny or Die Presents: Donald Trump's The Art of the Deal: The Movie - Netflix Exclusive The Family Man (2000)

\*The Fast and the

Furious (2001) The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) Final Destination 3 (2006)From the Terrace (1960)Holding the Man (2015) – Netflix Exclusive How to Win the U.S. Presidency (2016) In the Shadow of the Moon (2007) Masha and the Bear: Season 2 - Netflix Exclusive Memoria (2015) The Naked Prey (1966) NCIS: Season 13 Pay It Forward (2000) The Real Texas

Chainsaw Massacre

(2003)

Roseanne Collection: Collection 3

\*Sleepy Hollow (1999) Sliding Doors (1998) Star Trek: Nemesis (2002)

\*The Wedding Planner (2001)

\*What Women Want (2000)

Young@Heart (2007) Zack and Miri Make a Porno (2008)

#### AUG.3

Beat Bugs: Season 1 -Netflix Original

#### AUG.5

Ever After High: Epic Winter - Netflix Original The Little Prince (2016) - Netflix

Original Punk's Dead: SLC Punk 2 (2016)

#### AUG. 6

The Confirmation (2016)

#### **AUG. 10**

St. Vincent (2014)

#### **AUG. 11**

Flight of the Butterflies (2012) No Country for Old Men (2007)

#### **AUG. 12**

Ask the StoryBots: Season 1 - Netflix Original The Get Down: Part 1 - Netflix Original Project Mc2: Season 2 - Netflix Original

#### **AUG. 13**

13 Cameras (2016)

### **AUG. 15**

\*Louis CK: Live at the Comedy Store (2015)

#### **AUG. 16**

Let's Go to Prison (2006)Our Last Tango (2015)

#### **AUG. 17**

The Curse of Sleeping Beauty (2016) The Last Heist (2016) Puffin Rock: Season 2 Netflix Original

#### **AUG. 19**

Bottersnikes and Gumbles: Season 1 -Netflix Original Fearless: Season 1-

Netflix Original \*I'll Sleep When

**AUG. 21** Maz Jobrani: I'm Not a Terrorist, but I've Played One on TV (2015)

#### **AUG. 22**

\*Law & Order: Special Victims Unit: The Seventeenth Year

#### **AUG. 23** Septembers of Shiraz

**AUG. 25** The Road (2009)

### **AUG. 26**

(2015)

Blue Is the Warmest

Dawn of the Croods: I'm Dead – Netflix Season 2 - Netflix Original Original

Glitter Force: Season 2 – Netflix

Color (2013)

Original Jeff Foxworthy and

Larry the Cable Guy: We've Been Thinking... - Netflix Original

\*Once Upon a Time: Season 5 XOXO (2016) - Netflix Original

#### **AUG. 27** Rams (2015)

#### **AUG. 29**

The State of Marriage (2015)

#### **AUG. 31**

Ku'damm 56: Season 1

# BEFORE

Nothing gold lasts forever. Here are the titles leaving Netflix in August that we think you should watch before they expire.

#### AUG.1

- » Addams Family Values (1993)
- » The Best Man (1999)
- » Bowfinger (1999)
- » The Gabby **Douglas Story** (2014)
- » Jennifer 8 (1992)
- » Johnny English (2003)
- » The Nutty Professor (1996)
- » The Replacements (2000)
- » Rugrats Go Wild (2003)
- » The Sandlot (1993)
- » Suspect Zero
- (2004) » Teen Witch (1989)
- » Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III (1993)
- » Where the Red Fern Grows (1974)
- » The Wild Thornberrys Movie (2002)

#### **AUG. 11**

» Mr. Peabody & Sherman (2014)

#### **AUG. 15**

» Charlie's Angels (2000)

#### **AUG. 27**

» The Pursuit of Happyness (2006)

#### **AUG. 30**

» A Nightmare on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge (1985)

#### **AUG. 31**

» Death Note (2006)



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# worth a trip The Gran Three (\$11)

Front Bar 1700 N. Halsted St. 312-649-6880

By Heather Schroering | REDEYE

The negroni—a classic concoction of equal parts Campari, gin and sweet vermouth can't be everyone's cocktail of choice. That bitter shame hath spoil'd the sweet drink's taste. But there's a negroni for the negroni hater at Front Bar, Steppenwolf Theatre's cocktail and coffee lounge that opened in late spring. And without the bitter drama, it's certainly worth a sip.

The Gran Three is a creation from Front Bar lead bartender Lukas Vlasnik. Not fond of negronis, he dreamed up the cocktail for himself during Negroni Week in June.

In an absinthe-rinsed glass, the stirred drink combines Gran Classico (an herbaceous alternative to Campari), Ramazzotti amaro, green Chartreuse and black walnut and orange bitters. The cocktail is finished with an orange expression (squeezing the oils from the peel over the glass).

It drinks like a negroni, packing an

herbaceous punch up front, but rather than finishing on a bitter note, it wraps up dry and sweet, like old-fashioned hard candy. The candied finale comes from the Ramazzotti bitter liqueur, Vlasnik said, which has dark, cola-like and citrus peel flavors. While there's no gin, the green Chartreuse is a botanicalheavy equivalent.

Front Bar opened in late May in the extended Steppenwolf lobby. Inspired by an artist's loft with industrial vibes, the low-lit bar is both comfortable and sexy with steel-blue floor-to-ceiling curtains, mismatched furniture, a small collection of blues and soul records and a centralized bar built from reclaimed steel. Steppenwolf relics are peppered throughout the place, including theater seats from this season's "The Flick," a mask from "The Tempest" and the O'Rourke's globe light from the old Steppenwolf haunt that served actors across the street until its closing in 2001. Built with



the spirit of O'Rourke's in mind, Front Bar is a regular hangout for Steppenwolf cast and crew members where theatergoers are welcome to mingle.

Developed with Boka Restaurant Group (Girl & the Goat, Balena), the restaurant and bar serves coffee, tea and pastries starting at 7 a.m. daily and sandwiches, salads and pizza

by the slice in the afternoon and evening. The Gran Three isn't on the cocktail menu just yet, but treat this as a pro tip and ask your bartender about it. No bitter shame here.

REPORTERS VISIT RESTAURANTS AND BARS UNANNOUNCED, AND DRINKS ARE PAID FOR BY REDEYE.

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By Elise De Los Santos | REDEYE

When it comes to new book releases, you really can't top a new "Harry Potter" book. But while we impatiently wait for the Sunday release of "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child," here are 14 other titles that can help pass the time.

#### **CHICAGO-CENTRIC**

#### **The Empty Bottle Chicago** Edited by John Dugan

July 5, \$34.95, Curbside Splendor



The Chicago concert venue has been rocking for 21+ years, and this book offers a behindthe-scenes and anecdotal history from

people who worked and/or played at Empty Bottle. There's so much information crammed on the nearly 275 pages of this book, from the photos to a consummate list down the edge of most of those pages of all the acts that have played there. If you're an Empty Bottle regular or someone who follows the Chicago indie music scene, this is a no-brainer must-have.

#### **Wrigley Field Year by Year** By Sam Pathy July 19, \$35, Sports Publishing



This one's for the more diehard Cubs fan. An update to the original edition published in 2014, "Wrigley Field Year by Year: A Century

at the Friendly Confines" literally goes through each year starting in 1914 and lists the team's

stats for the year, a description of opening day, what was new to the stadium that year, other notable dates and events, and finally a quote or a few summing up that season. Though it's text-heavy, the oversized book and glossy paper will make it a coffee table must-have for the dedicated fan.

#### **ELECTION 2016**

#### **The Hillary Clinton Coloring Book and The Donald Trump Coloring Book**

By Tim Foley July 26, \$7.99 each, Racehorse



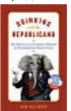
These two coloring books are billed as "ultimate tribute[s] to the next president of the United States." but they're irreverent and borderline scandalous. The drawings place the presidential candidates in iconic moments of American history and/or have them replace iconic figures including but not limited to: » Clinton as Abraham Lincoln, Betsy Ross and one of the soldiers raising the flag during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

» Trump as Franklin Roosevelt, either Lewis or Clark and a pilgrim who's just been dropped off by the Mayflower.

#### **Drinking with** the Republicans and **Drinking with** the Democrats

By Mark Will-Weber

July 11, \$14.99 each, Regnery History



Respectively subtitled "The Politically Incorrect History of Conservative Concoctions" and "The Party Animal's History of Liberal Libations," these are history books first and cocktail recipe books second. But that's a very good thing. They're full of funny and interesting anecdotes related to drinking during each presidential administration. Some are so relatable to 21st century living that I wouldn't be surprised if these stories were made up, and I wouldn't even be mad about it.



#### **COLORING**

#### **Another [Bleep]ing Coloring Book**

July 1, \$10.99, Adams Media



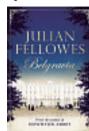
If you've stepped into any book or art store recently, or even Target's dollar section, the title of this book might be your reaction to seeing yet another iteration of the childhood pastimeturned-adult activity

books. This one certainly turns the "adult" factor way up, poking fun at the whimsical and relaxing theme of many coloring books with color-it-in swear words and phrases.

#### **LITERARY**

#### **Belgravia**

By Julian Fellowes July 5, \$27, Grand Central



The writer behind "Downton Abbey" stays in the world he knows best—"the great and the good of British Society." Much like on Fellowes' popular TV show, the book deals with the uncomfortable interaction between the old landed aristocracy and new money. The novel starts on

the eve of the Battle of Waterloo and a secret that comes to light 25 years later. ("Belgravia" was originally released in serialized form earlier this year, but all parts have been compiled in novel form.)

#### **Classic Penguin: Cover to Cover**

By Paul Buckley July 26, \$25, Penauin



For 70 years, Penquin Classics has been publishing works of literature with iconic book designs ... or designs that eventually became iconic. This gorgeous collection of the most recent wave of nearinstant-classic Penguin

covers is the second-best thing to actually owning the books themselves.

#### **REFERENCE**

### **How to Pack for Any Trip**

By Lonely Planet July 19, \$11.99, Lonely Planet



We've all been there: a few hours away from leaving on a trip, closet in complete disarray, suitcase still

empty. That's where Lonely Planet comes in. The travel experts have compiled this packing guide (in a compact travel size) to answer all your questions. The first half walks you through the pros and cons of different kinds of luggage depending on your needs and destination and breaks down all the different methods of packing, from throwing everything in and hoping the suitcase closes to the roll-everything-and-fill-the-gaps strategy. The second half deals with what items to actually pack, depending on what you're doing. And because this is Lonely Planet, that includes trips to the jungle and the North or South poles, but also good old camping or the beach.

#### **EAT & DRINK**



#### 101 Cocktails to **Try Before You Die** By Francois Monti

July 5, \$12.99, Cassell

Chances are you've tried a good handful of the cocktails compiled in this handy little book, but all 101? That's a good bucket list goal. Each cocktail

recipe comes with a brief history of the drink and notes on how to prepare and present, a difficulty rating and how it should taste if you did it right. Oh, and it's in alphabetical order for maximum organization. Bottoms up!

#### **Eric Lanlard's Afternoon Tea** By Eric Lanlard July 5, \$24.99, Mitchell Beazley

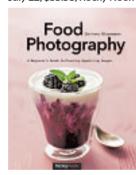


Don't judge a book by its cover, and certainly don't judge an author by its book. Master patissier Eric I anlard does not look at all like the pearl-clutching. prim and proper

grandmother type you'd expect from the pastel and frills that fill the pages of this book, but he's put together a collection of the dantiest delicacies that look almost too good to eat. If you're not much more than a beginner in pastry-making, these recipes might be a bit too challenging to tackle just yet, but they are lovely to look at.

#### **Food Photography**

By Corinna Gissemann July 22, \$39.95, Rocky Nook

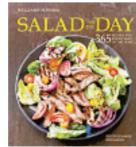


Whether you just like looking at food porn or you want to make your Instagram feed more appetizing, this book has got you covered. The tips are a little more technical than what a casual nom snapper might need, but if

you want to dabble in photography more seriously or start a serious blog, this handbook delves into lighting techniques, playing with all the adjustments on your camera that you've probably been ignoring and even how to edit photos and set up props.

#### **Williams-Sonoma** Salad of the Day

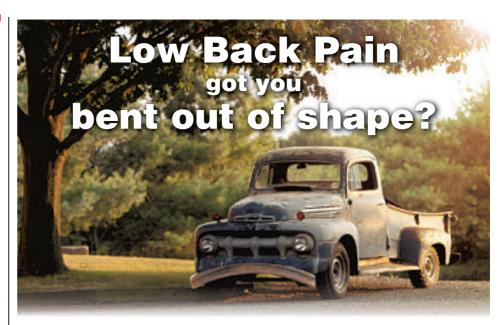
By Georgeanne Brennan July 5, \$34.95, Weldon Owen



Just because it's healthy doesn't mean it has to taste bad or the same. This recipe book tosses together 365 different salad recipes, one for every day of the year. It might be a bit ambitious to

stick to that schedule (and expensive), but at least you've got alternative options to droopy greens tossed together. Better vet, the salads are organized by month, with the recipes taking advantage of what's in season during that time of year.

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#### **TUESDAY'S SOLUTIONS**

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#### **TODAY'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS**

- » Actress **Taylor Schilling**, 32
- » Actor Jonathan Rhys Meyers, 39
- » Actor **Seamus Dever**. 40

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

- » Actress Mava Rudolph, 44
- » Author Cassandra Clare, 43
- » Actor Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, 46
- » Comedian Bill Engvall, 59

#### ACROSS

- Cold sore spot "Get lost!" Dried fruit
- a test; passed easily
  "All things come to \_
  who wait"
  Test
  Actor Richard
  Perils

- Perils
  Trimester or semester
  Inane
  Notice
  Think deeply
  "Beginning to Look a
  Lot Like Christmas" 26
- Gomez \_; role for John Astin Very brief TV's Morgan
- Lift
- Part of a sock Break into a computer West Point student

40

60

- Kidney stone symptom
  \_ flash; instantly
  In a stupor
- 41 Vital sign in the wrist 42 Vital sign in the wrist 43 Outscored 45 Russia's dollars 46 Org. for Hawks and
- Hornets Satan's realm Hopping insect Shrinking back in fear
- Rich soil
- Oak tree nut Cleansing bar

- 60 Meanie 61 Run after 62 Enormous 63 No longer sick 64 Carried 65 Carping spouse

- Fail to keep up Applies frosting French father
- Tension Nation of South
- America Ascended
- Inquires Sloppiest

- Told fibs "What's \_ about, Alfie?..." Uproar
- Kelly and Barry Level a building Eye clouding Prepare and issue a book Tiny amount
- Tv show award Copenhagen's nation Totals Peg for Nicklaus Plant destroyer Keaton or Sawyer
- 25 Peg in State 26 Plant destroyer 27 Keaton or Sawyer 28 Evening coffee, perhaps 29 Lost color

Abhor Sharp tools Waterproof covering

TV show award

- 42 \_ on; yank 44 Tooth coating
- in; brought under
- control Stallion
- Move smoothly
- Theater box
- British noble Reverberate
- 53 54 55 59 Outer garment
- Verv excited Nickname for Margaret

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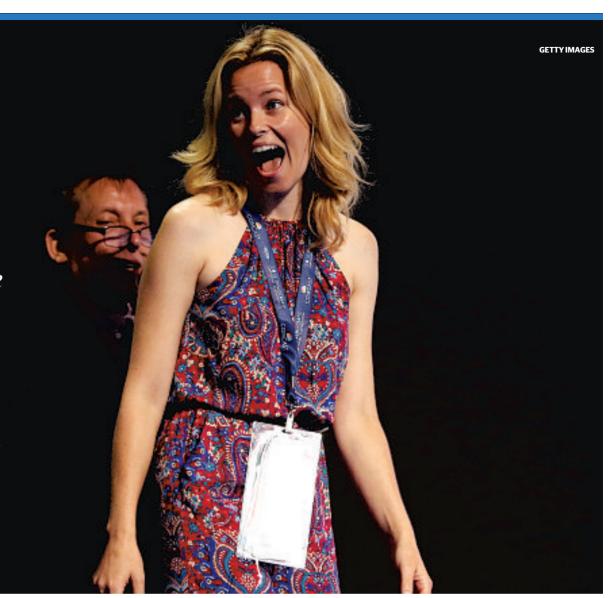
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# red hot

#### THE QUOTE

"I think one of the big systematic issues in our industry that keeps women out of the directing chair is that we don't want to break up our families."

**—Elizabeth Banks**, to Variety, on her decision not to direct "Pitch Perfect 3." The director and actress said everyone should lobby California legislators to pass a tax credit that would keep movie sets in Los Angeles, allowing Hollywood women to stay with their families. Banks, who directed "Pitch Perfect 2," said she would have been a lot more likely to direct the third had the shoot taken place in L.A. "We shot the last two movies in Louisiana. But my kids were little," she explained. "I don't want to decide between my work and my kids. It was a really hard decision, but I don't think I'll ever regret not choosing my children."





#### **RIP Miss Cleo**

Everybody's favorite television psychic, Miss Cleo, passed away Tuesday at 53 after a battle with cancer, according to TMZ. Cleo, whose real name was Youree Dell Harris, was known for her late '90s and early '00s infomercials proclaiming her psychic abilities. Though she claimed to be a Jamaican shaman in her commercials, Harris was born in L.A., according to **people.com**. We'll miss you, Miss Cleo.

**THE DIGIT** 

10

That's how many episodes Spike TV has ordered of its new "'Cash Cab' meets karaoke" project, based on the successful James Corden bit "Carpool Karaoke." According to **thr.com**, in "Caraoke Showdown," hosted by Craig Robinson and executive-produced by Howie Mandel, Robinson will pick up unsuspecting contestants who will sing for cash, with the occasional celebrity guest appearance. The show, originally ordered as a half-hour special, is set to premiere in 2017. You can find Robinson in Los Angeles or New York for your chance at caraoke stardom—but nobody will ever do it as well as Michelle Obama. Don't even try.

#### Insta-drama

Rob Kardashian is not known for being the most level-headed of the Kardashian clan, so it wasn't that much of a shocker when the reality-TV-personality-turned-sock-designer cleared his Instagram of any mention of his pregnant fianceé, Blac Chyna (and, as of Tuesday evening, everything else). According to **eonline.com**, the two are still in a relationship, but after a spat, "he was so pissed at how she spoke to him, so he deleted everything about her to hurt her," an unnamed source said. We can't wait to see how he handles his kid's first temper tantrum. No baby picture will be safe.



#### Dr. Dre's no good very bad day

Dr. Dre, producer and former NWA member, was placed under a citizen's arrest on Monday by a man who had parked in front of the music legend's Malibu home, according to the Los Angeles Times. The stranger said Dre "ordered him to leave and produced a handgun," according to police. When police arrived, Dre was put in handcuffs and searched, but no firearm or evidence that Dre had pointed one at the man was found, and Dre was given a citation but not taken into custody. Citing an unnamed source, The L.A. Times also reported that Dre claimed that the man had followed him home after a "road-rage-type incident" on the freeway. If Dr. Dre asks you to move your car, just do it, dude.

#### Happily never after

Less than seven months after getting married and a week after announcing her pregnancy with their first child, "Cosby Show" child star Keshia Knight Pulliam's husband Ed Hartwell, has already filed for divorce. Former professional athlete Hartwell also requested that Pulliam take a paternity test, according to people. com. The two got engaged on New Year's Eve and were married a month later.

